

## Chapter 5



*Rehabilitated Loggerhead sea turtle returning to ocean*

## Consultation and Coordination with Others

## Public Involvement Summary

Effective conservation usually begins with effective community involvement. To ensure that our future management of the Refuge considers the issues, concerns, and opportunities expressed by the public, we used a variety of public involvement techniques in our planning process.

**Public scoping.** Open houses and public information meetings were held throughout the Virginia Beach area at three different locations during January of 2002. Meetings were advertised locally through news releases, paid advertisements, and through our mailing list. For each meeting, the “open house” session was planned where people could informally learn of the project, and have their questions or concerns addressed in a “one-on-one” situation. The evening public information meeting sessions usually included a presentation of the Refuge, a brief review of the Refuge System and the planning process, and a question and answer session. Participants were encouraged to actively express their opinions and suggestions. The public meetings allowed us to gather information and ideas from local residents, adjacent landowners, and various organizations and agencies.

**Newsletters.** An “Issues Workbook” was developed to encourage written comments on topics such as wildlife habitats, non-native nuisance species, and public access to the Refuge. In January 2002, these workbooks were mailed to a diverse group of over 1,500 people on our mailing list, given to people who attended a public meeting, and distributed to anyone who requested one. The workbook included questions to help collect ideas, concerns and suggestions from the public on important issues associated with managing the Refuge. We asked for input on issues and possible action options, the things people valued most about the Refuge, their vision for the future, and whether our recreational facilities meet public needs. We received more than 100 workbooks in response. In January 2007, we distributed a “planning newsletter.” In this newsletter, we shared the Refuge vision statement and goals and summarized our three management alternatives.

**“Federal Register” Notices.** We published our original Notice of Intent (NOI) in the “Federal Register” on May 8, 2002, stating we would develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Refuge in conjunction with its CCP. Then, as we evaluated the primary issues, the Service determined that an EA would be a more appropriate document than an EIS to accompany the CCP. The need to prepare an EIS is a matter of professional judgment requiring consideration of all issues in question. If the EA determines that the CCP will constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, an EIS will then be prepared. The primary purpose of an EIS is to ensure that a full and fair discussion of all significant environmental impacts occurs and to inform decision makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. On February 23, 2007, our second NOI in the “Federal Register” advised the public we were withdrawing the previous notice and, instead of completing a CCP/EIS, would complete a CCP/EA. In preparing this draft CCP/EA, we considered all comments we had received after publishing the first NOI.

**Workshops.** The rationale of our workshops was to generate a range of possible solutions that would address issues of resource management and public use at the Refuge. From 2002 through 2007, we held workshops with various biological and public use experts from Federal, state, local and non-profit organizations. Those workshops allowed us to work closely with our partners in discussing the vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and consequences at the heart of this plan.

The input we obtained from our public meetings, newsletters and workshops has been used to prepare this draft CCP/EA, which will be released for 30 days of public review and comment. During that period, we will hold two additional public meetings to give the public additional opportunities to comment. If you prefer to send your comments in writing, we also invite you to mail them to the address below.

Thomas Bonetti, Planning Team Leader  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, 01035-9589  
northeastplanning@fws.gov.

## List of Preparers

### Core Planning Team

#### Kyle Barbour

Title Park Manager  
Affiliation False Cape State Park (Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks)  
Experience 18 years with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks

#### Gary Costanza

Title Migratory Game Bird Manager  
Affiliation Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Experience 17 years with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (12 years as Waterfowl Project Leader, and 5 years as Migratory Game Bird Manager)

#### Thomas Bonetti

Title Senior Refuge Planner and Planning Team Leader  
Affiliation USFWS Region 5 Regional Office  
Experience 1.5 years with California Department of Parks and Recreation; 6 years with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 8 years with USFWS, Region 5, Division of Conservation Planning and Policy

#### Jared Brandwein

Title Refuge Manager  
Affiliation Back Bay NWR  
Experience 2 years with Peace Corps, 1 year with US Forest Service, 4 years with the Bureau of Land Management, 23 years with the USFWS (2 years at Ninigret NWR Complex, 3 years Washington Office, 10 years Eastern PA Field Office, 8 years at Back Bay NWR)

#### Barbara Duke

Title Planner III  
Affiliation City of Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation  
Experience Certified Planner, Land Use, Trails, and Environmental Planning and Design

#### Todd Engelmeier

Title District Wildlife Biologist  
Affiliation Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Experience 2 years with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3 years with the US Army—Ft. Eustis, 6 years with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

**Barry Frankenfield**

Title Design and Development Administrator  
 Affiliation City of Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation  
 Experience Certified Landscape Architect, Certified Planner, Planning, Design, and Construction for a wide variety of Park and Recreation Facilities

**John Gallegos**

Title Senior Wildlife Biologist  
 Affiliation Back Bay NWR  
 Experience 32 years with USFWS (worked at refuges in NY, NJ, VT, VA)

**Chris Lowie**

Title Deputy Refuge Manager  
 Affiliation Back Bay NWR  
 Experience 15 years with USFWS (13 years with Fisheries program, 2 years at Back Bay NWR)

**Lelaina Marin**

Title Assistant Refuge Planner  
 Affiliation USFWS Region 5 Regional Office  
 Experience 3.5 years with USFWS

**Brian Phelps**

Title Planner II  
 Affiliation City of Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation  
 Experience Planning, Design & Construction for a variety of Park & Recreation projects such as Neighborhood Parks; Trails, Playgrounds, Water Access/Boat Launch Facilities

**Dorie Stolley**

Title Wildlife Biologist  
 Affiliation Back Bay NWR  
 Experience 2 years with the National Park Service, 7 years with USFWS (4 years at Santa Ana and the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWRs and 3 years at Back Bay NWR)

**Walter Tegge**

Title Visitor Services Manager  
 Affiliation Back Bay NWR  
 Experience 8.5 years with the National Park Service; 1 year with the US Army Corps of Engineers; 4.5 years with the US Forest Service; 10.5 years with the Bureau of Land Management; 8 years with USFWS

**Assistance from other Service Personnel****Barry Brady**

Refuge Policy Specialist  
 USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Paul Caldwell**

Retired  
 (Former Deputy Refuge Manager at Back Bay NWR)

**Rachel Cliché**

Wildlife Biologist  
 Eastern Neck NWR  
 (Former Biologist at Back Bay NWR)

**John Fellows**

Volunteer  
 USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Carolina FerroVasconcelos**

Former Assistant Refuge Planner  
 USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Susan Fuller**

Senior Biologist/GIS Specialist  
 USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Lamar Gore**  
Assistant Refuge Supervisor  
USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Rick Jorgensen**  
Realty Specialist  
USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Reese Lukei**  
Volunteer  
Back Bay NWR

**John Sauer**  
Refuge Roads/TEA-21 & SAMMS  
Coordinator  
USFWS Region 5 Regional Office  
(Former IT Specialist at Back Bay  
NWR)

**John Stasko**  
Refuge Supervisor  
USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Daffny Jones Hoskie**  
Assistant Manager  
Potomac River NWR Complex  
(Former Visitor Services Professional at  
Back Bay NWR)

**Hal Laskowski**  
Regional Biologist  
Prime Hook NWR

**Sharon Marino**  
Assistant Refuge Supervisor  
USFWS Region 5 Regional Office

**Donald Schwab**  
Wildlife Biologist  
Great Dismal Swamp NWR  
(Former Wildlife Biologist with the  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland  
Fisheries)

**Assistance from federal,  
state, local and other  
partners**

**Clay Bernick**  
Environmental Management  
Administrator  
City of Virginia Beach Department of  
Planning

**Barbara Henley**  
Councilwoman – Princess Anne  
District, City of Virginia Beach

**Matt Knox**  
Deer Project Coordinator  
Virginia Department of Game and  
Inland Fisheries

**Dave Morton**  
GIS Coordinator  
Wildlife Diversity Division  
Virginia Department of Game and  
Inland Fisheries

**Kendell D. Jenkins**  
GIS Specialist  
Wildlife Diversity Division  
Virginia Department of Game and  
Inland Fisheries

**Molly Brown**  
President  
Friends of Back Bay

**Herb Jones**  
Volunteer  
Back Bay NWR

**Charlie Meyer**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Office of the City Manager  
City of Virginia

**Jim Reeve**  
Former Councilman – Princess Anne  
District  
City of Virginia Beach